

BALTIMORE SUN

JAN 07 1989

## EPA criticized for halting study of cigarette smoke

From Wire Reports

NEW YORK — The Environmental Protection Agency has quietly dropped tobacco from its studies of indoor air pollution, a move that critics said was made in response to pressure from the tobacco industry.

EPA officials confirmed dropping tobacco research but denied doing so because of industry pressure.

The tobacco research program was killed two years ago, just as the EPA was completing the first draft of a report on secondhand smoke and lung cancer that is being released with great fanfare today.

The decision to halt the program was not widely known. Critics said the release of the lung cancer report prompted them to speak out.

EPA officials denied acting in response to tobacco industry lobbying. "I can tell you categorically that there was no industry pressure that I knew of," said Erich Bretthauer, an assistant administrator.

"It's outrageous that the EPA has terminated funding of the most important indoor air pollutant," said Stanton Glantz of the University of California, San Francisco. "The EPA had one of the best research programs in the world."

Mr. Glantz and the EPA scientist said they thought the agency had dropped the research in response to tobacco industry lobbying.

Meanwhile yesterday, Philip Morris Inc., which makes Marlboro cigarettes, and the Tobacco Institute attacked and tried to discredit the EPA report on passive smoking.

Health groups defended the report and said it supported earlier data compiled by the American Heart Association and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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